

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

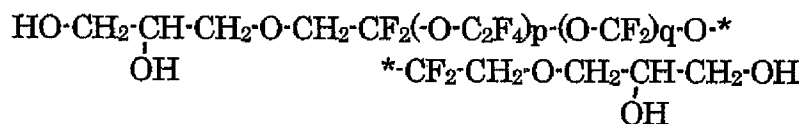
1. - 21. (canceled).

22. (previously presented): The magnetic disk according to claim 30, installed in a magnetic disk drive of a load/unload type.

23. (previously presented): The magnetic disk according to claim 22, installed in the magnetic disk drive which comprises a magnetic head including a negative pressure slider.

24. (canceled).

25. (currently amended): A lubricant for use in manufacturing a magnetic disk, comprising a compound represented by the following formula:



wherein the lubricant is prepared by a method comprising the following steps:

preparing a crude lubricant which includes at least the compound;

heating the crude lubricant to a temperature of 160°C to 200°C;

degassing an impurity gas from the crude lubricant in a reduced pressure;

after the degassing, vaporizing a degassed lubricant into a vaporized lubricant; and

purifying the vaporized lubricant into the lubricant by liquefying the compound molecules of the vaporized lubricant within a distance less than a mean free path of the compound molecules.

26. (previously presented): A magnetic disk comprising at least a magnetic layer, a protective layer, and lubricant layer which are formed on a substrate, wherein the lubricant layer comprises the lubricant according to claim 25.

27. (previously presented): The lubricant for use in manufacturing a magnetic disk according to claim 25, wherein the compound comprises at least 85 mole percent of the lubricant, as measured by nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy.

28. (previously presented): The lubricant for use in manufacturing a magnetic disk according to claim 25, wherein the compound comprises between 90 and 95 mole percent of the lubricant, as measured by nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy.

29. (previously presented): The lubricant according to claim 25, in which the molecular weight distribution is not smaller than 1.0 and is not greater than 1.3, and in which the weight-average molecular weight is between 4000 and 8000.

30. (previously presented): The magnetic disk according to claim 26, wherein the compound comprises at least 85 mole percent of the lubricant, as measured by nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy;

the molecular weight distribution of the lubricant is not smaller than 1.0 and is not greater than 1.3; and

the weight-average molecular weight of the lubricant is between 4000 and 8000;

wherein the lubricant layer is formed by dip coating.

31. (previously presented): The magnetic disk according to claim 30, wherein the compound comprises between 90 and 95 mole percent of the lubricant, as measured by nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy.

32. (previously presented): The magnetic disk according to claim 30, wherein the bonded ratio is greater than 80%.

33. (previously presented): The magnetic disk according to claim 30, wherein the bonded ratio is between 82 and 85%.